

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: March 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Approve Water Use Permit Modification Application 040921-6 for Hobe St Lucie Conservancy District for conversion of irrigation of certain acreage from agricultural to landscaping (Martin County)

### **SUMMARY**

Staff recommends approval of Water Use Permit Modification 43-00057-W, Hobe St Lucie Conservancy District, to continue diversion and impoundment of water into facilities not controlled by the South Florida Water Management District, with an annual allocation of 7,550 million gallons per year (20.7 million gallons per day), through the expiration date for permits in the Lake Okeechobee Water Use Basin on February 28, 2009. The modification authorizes: plugging and abandoning 11 existing wells and adding 2 existing and 4 proposed wells for a total of 54 wells; adding 620 acres turf for the Hobe Sound Polo Club development; reducing irrigated acreage of citrus from 5,704 to 4,241 acres; adding 456 acres of nursery and 57 acres of peppers, for a net reduction of 330 acres; and adding a sprinkler irrigation system for the irrigated turf areas. There are no other changes to the permit.

### **BACKGROUND**

Hobe St Lucie Conservancy District holds a Water Use Permit for diversion and impoundment of water into facilities not controlled by the South Florida Water Management District. Withdrawals are made from South Florida Water Management District Canal C-44 via two 25,000 gallon per minute pumps, and from the Surficial Aquifer via 54 wells. The Conservancy District was created pursuant to Chapter 298, Florida Statutes in 1972, and obtained its initial Water Use Permit from the South Florida Water Management District in 1977. The permit has been extended, modified, or renewed in a timely manner since initial issuance, and the applicant is in compliance with all conditions of the previously issued permit. Under this application, the applicant is requesting to change crop types on certain acreage and to convert some of the agricultural areas into residential and recreational landscape irrigation for the Hobe Sound Polo Club development. There are no other changes to the permit including the expiration date of February 28, 2009 and withdrawals from South Florida Water Management District Canal C-44.

### **MFL RECOVERY and CERP ISSUES**

A portion of the permittee's project is within the boundaries of the North Palm Beach County/Loxahatchee River Watershed. No facilities withdraw directly from a Watershed Waterbody and there are no wells within the boundaries of the watershed. This is an existing, permitted project for less irrigated acres than what existed on and prior to April 1, 2006. Therefore, pursuant to the Basis of Review for Water Use Applications, the requested allocation will not cause a net increase in the volume or cause a change in timing on a monthly basis over that which existed as of April 1, 2006.

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